

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF IDIOM IN THE NOVEL *BEFORE I FALL* BY LAUREN OLIVER

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ABSTRACT

This research entitled "A Semantic Analysis of Idiom in Novel Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver" is aimed to find out the forms of idiom, the types of idiom and meaning of idiom in the novel Before I fall by Lauren Oliver.

The research belongs to qualitative research. The data of this research are in words rather than numbers and there is no statistical procedure or calculation. The data of this research is the text of Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver's novel. The writer uses the nothing and separating techniques to collect the data. The data were analyzed by classifying the idioms in the novel, identifying the forms of idioms, finding out the meaning of idioms and drawing the conclusion.

The result of this research shows that there are ten classifications of idioms they are adjective and adverb, noun phrase, pairs of adjective, pairs of noun, pairs of adverb, idiom with preposition, phrasal verb, verbal idiom, idiom with comparison, five types of idiom they are binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, cliché, and fixed statement, and the meaning of idiom itself.

Keywords: language, linguistics, semantics, idiom, and novel.

1. INTRODUCTION

Idioms are part of language Jackendoff (1997). They have phonological structure, syntactic structure, and conceptual structure. Language means that the proses communication between one or more people. Idioms are convinced as constructional, as complex lexical items whose meaning is not syntactically determined.

Idioms are transparent to native speakers, but a course of perplexity to those who are acquiring a second language Cristina Cacciari and Patrizia Tabossi (1993 p.7). It means that people are not native speaker cannot make their own idioms and idiom is fixed. Idiom is a fixed expression, as the name indicates, are also usually fixed and flexible in patterning.

Idioms are expressions which have a meaning that is not obvious from the individual word McCarthy and O'Dell (2010, p. 6). It means that an idiom cannot be interpreted literally or by meaning each words, because an idiom has its meaning.

Consider the following data:

- (1) Rowena *jump for joy* when she heard that she'd won first prize, (McCarthy and O'Dell 2010, p. 12)
- (2) Dad says that dinner will be ready *right away*, so we'd better wash our hands and set the table, (Robert J. Dixon 1983, p.5)

In (1), *jump for joy* is a verb phrase, *jump* is a verb *for* is a conjunction and *joy* is adjective. Literally the word *jump* means an act of jumping from a surface by pushing upward with one's legs and feet and *for joy* is something happy so *jump for joy* is *a jump to make you happy* but that is not the meaning, the meaning is *be very happy and excited about that has happening*. For example, Rowena jump for joy when she heard that she'd won first prize. In (6), *right away* is a phrase that contain of *right* is an adjective and *away* is an adverb. Right away is a phrase means very soon or immediately such as, "Dad says that dinner will be ready *right away*, so we'd better wash our hands and set the table", "tell Will to come to my office *right away*. I must see him immediately".

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The design of this research is library research by applying content analysis method. Cohen, L. (2007:175) writes that content analysis is the process of summarizing and reporting written data in the form of the main content of data and their messages. Here, content analysis reduces and interrogates them into summary form through the use of both pre-existing categories and emergent themes in order to generate or test a theory. It uses systematic, replicable, observable and rule-governed forms of analysis in a theory dependent system for the application of those categories.

In this research, the researcher accomplished the data in each chapter that contained idiomatic expression. Then, the researcher started from reading the entire text or the object of the research, collecting and examining the data in depth

the books that are used as references materials. Then, the presented data statements; and then those are summarizing into the words to make them understandable.

Miles and Huberman (1994:55-56) states "Data collection is inescapably a selective process, that you cannot and do not „get it all“ even though you might think you can and are." In collecting the data, the researcher chooses the data by using purposive or judgment sampling. The purposive or judgment sampling is one of non-random sampling types which are chosen at random. Neuendorf, K.A. (2002:88) says that purposive the researcher in the purposive or judgment sampling makes a decision as to what she or he considers appropriate to include in the sample. In the other hand, the data finding of utterances and sentences contained idiomatic expressions is chosen at random in this research. Here are the steps in collecting the data:

1. Preparing The Data

The first time in collecting the data, the researcher has to prepare novel that is appropriate with the title of this research as the data. In this case, the researcher chooses the novel young adult as the data because in the novel young adult there are many idioms that are used.

2. Determining The Data

To determine the data, the researcher focuses on the best-sellers novel as the criteria in collecting the data. In the end, the researcher decides to take choice of Lauren Oliver's novel because she is very well-known as the author for young adults. Moreover, there are many the essential lessons that we can get when we read her novel such as life, family, and love.

3. Selecting The Data

In selecting the data, the researcher sorts Lauren Oliver's novel which includes in New York Times best-sellers. Then, the researcher makes choice of Lauren Oliver's novel entitled "Before I Fall" as the data. The reason is "Before I Fall" novel tells about a girl who is feels a phenomenon happened repeatedly.

4. Reading the Novel Comprehensively

It is important for the researcher to solve the problem of this research. Because of by reading comprehensively, it will be easier for the researcher in analysing the idiomatic expression. At the same time, the researcher also makes a mark of utterances or sentences contained idiomatic expression.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

In this section, it is explained the classification of idiom, the type of idiom and the meaning.

3.1. Classification of idiom

Based on Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, the definition of classification can be uncountable and countable noun. Firstly, classification is "the act or process of dividing things into groups according to their type (uncountable noun)". Secondly, classification is "a group that something is divided into (countable noun)". Here are the classifications of idiom that is introduced by Jennifer Seidl (1988:5-8).

Adjectives and adverbs

Dayne sherman, Jayette Slawson (2010: 315) declare, an adjective modifiers a noun or pronoun by providing descriptive or specific detail. They specify which one, or what kind, like hot, funny, unique, and brought. Adverbs describe verbs, adjectives, or even other adverbs. They specify when something happened, where, how, why, and how much, for examples: softly, lazily, often, only, sometimes.

(3) He will *go a long way* in the future, (seidl 1989 p: 11)

In (3), *go a long way* is an idiomatic expression. It cannot be translated literally because it has its own meaning. *Go a long way* belongs to adjectives +adverbs with the key word "long". The meaning of *go a long way* is successful.

Noun phrase

Noun phrase is a phrase formed by a noun and all its modifiers and determiners, for example "I found the owner of the dog" "the owner of the dog" is a noun phrase.

(4) This challenge is going *a piece of cake* for me, (Seidl 1989 p: 24)

In (4), idiom is an ambiguous expression and so *a piece of cake*. It cannot be translated from individual meaning. It belongs to noun phrase type idiom. The key word of the idiom here is in the word "a piece". The meaning of *a piece of cake* is *very easy*.

Idiomatic pairs

Idiomatic pairs is an idiom of two words when they taken together have a different meaning from the meaning of each individual word.

(5) We just have to finish this section, then we're *home and dry*, (Seidl 1989 p: 27)

In (5) *home and dry* is an idiomatic expression. This expression belongs to pair type idiom. The meaning of *home and dry* is *successful*.

Idioms with prepositions

Prepositions show a relationship between a noun or a pronoun and the other words in the sentence like up, over, against, by.

(6) The deal was negotiated *behind closed door*, (Seidl 1989 p: 31)

In (6), like what Author said that sometimes Idiom can be illogical when it translates, just like *behind closed door*. It belongs to idiom. *Behind closed door* is not something behind the door that closed but based on Cambridge Dictionary *behind closed door* it is *hidden or kept secret from public view*. Simply meaning is *secrecy or prophecy*.

Verbal idioms

A verbal idiom is a group of words, contain a verb that has a different meaning from the meaning of any individual word within it.

(7) The doctor *broke the news* to the family that my grandmother had cancer, (Seidl 1989 p: 49)

In (7) *broke the news* is an idiom that means *telling someone about some important new information*. So *broke the news* is not that someone that divide news into parts violently. *Broke the news* cannot be divide by word to word or change the structure.

Idioms with comparisons

(8) Feel my toes, they are *as cold as ice* (Seidl 1989 p: 84)

In (8) *as cold as ice*. This expression cannot be translated by each word. So, it is kind of idiom. It can be mentioned that this expression belongs to idiom with comparison type. Based on Cambridge Dictionary *as cold as ice* means *extremely cold*.

3.2. Types of Idiom

According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, there are two definitions of type. Both of them are countable noun. Firstly, type is "a particular group of people or things which shares similar characteristics and forms a smaller division of a larger set". Secondly, type is "a person who seems to represent a particular group of people, having all the qualities that usually connect with that group". Below are the types of idiom based on McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:22-32).

Binomials

McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:24) declare, binomials are type of idiom in which two words are joined by a conjunction (linking word), usually "and". In the book English Idiom in Use explain that binomials is a type of idiom, it always joined by "and". Binomials have some part of the idiom and the order of the two words is fixed, for example: we always say *black and white* (separate and clear). Look the following data:

(9) After the match the player's legs were *black and blue* (McCarthy and O'Dell 2010 p. 24)

In (9), *black and blue* is an idiom. It is a quite difficult idiom to translate. After the match the player's legs were *black and blue* is not talking about the legs are colored

ore the color about the skin but the meaning of *black and blue* is dark marks on the skin caused by being hit or having an accident. *Black and blue* formed by "black" as an adjective, "and" as a conjunction, and "blue" as an adjective.

Proverbs

McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:26) spoke, proverbs are short sentences which refer to something most people have experienced and which give an advice or warnings. So idiom has appeared a long time ago and still exist. Culture and tradition influence the idiom itself.

(10) A: We all want to solve this problem, and I'm sure we'll find a solution.

B: Yes. *Where there's a will there's a way*, (McCarthy and O'Dell 2010 p. 26)

In (10), *where there's a will there's a way* is a popular idiomatic expression. It is quite easy to translate. *Where there's a will there's a way* is an old idiomatic so that makes interesting to use. It is always use to encourage someone. The meaning *where there's a will there's a way* is if we are determined enough, we can find a way to achieve what we want, even if it is very difficult.

Euphemisms

McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:28) spoke, Euphemisms are type of idiom used to avoid saying words which may offend or be considered unpleasant. Idioms make language more colorful and idioms have many advantages in conversation, one of them is euphemism. Euphemism or indirect word or expression used for saying something to harsh or blunt, example:

(11) I'm just going to *powder my nose*, (McCarthy and O'Dell 2010 p. 28)

In (11), *powder my nose*. Euphemism is a type of idiomatic used to avoid saying word that consider unpleasant so that *powder my nose*. It is an idiomatic expression that is not easy to translate. I'm just going to *powder my nose* is not really polish a nose by some powder but the meaning of that is *use the toilet*, it is a polite way to say than go to the toilet.

Cliché and fixed statement

McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:30) spoke, Cliché are a comment that is often used in certain common, everyday situations. So cliché is an expression that commonly used in daily life. It is also frequently played with in advertising slogans and newspaper headlines. Cliché is an expression that most of them are informal, so it is best not uses cliché in formal writing.

(12) *There are plenty more fish in the sea / pebbles on the beach,*
(McCarthy and O'Dell 2010 p. 30)

In (12), *there are plenty more fish in the sea* is an idiomatic expression it is frequently uses to state about telling someone whose relationship has ended that there are many others people that they could have a relationship. Based on McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:30) it is belong to Cliché. Moreover, such an expression means *opportunity*.

Fixed statements

Fixed statements are expressions that you can often hear and use fixed statements in everyday conversation.

(13) *Get your skates on!*, (McCarthy and O'Dell 2010 p. 30)

In (13), *get your skates on!* It is an idiomatic expression belong fix statement. It cannot be translate word by word. *Get your skates on!* It is not ask someone to take the skate. It means *hurry up*.

3.3 Meaning

Semantics/Literal Meaning

Literal meaning, a sentence is based on just the semantic information that someone has form his or her knowledge, Pathrick Griffiths (2006:6). So literal meaning is obvious and based on what happen at the time. Look at the example bellow:

A: Do you know when the last bus will be leaving?

B: *That was the last bus*

Pathrick Griffiths (2006:6)

Based on the conversation above someone who know English should be able to explain the meaning (B). The meaning is available without wondering who might say or write the words, when or where. No consideration of context is involved.

Sender's meaning

Sender's meaning is the meaning that the speaker or writer intends to convey by means of an utterance, Pathrick Griffiths (2006:9). It means that sender's meaning is something that addressees are continually having to make informed guesses about. Here is an example:

A: I don't want to do this, right now

B: Hold out your arm. That's it.

Pathrick Griffiths (2006:9)

Based on the text above, addressees can give indication, in their own next utterance of their interpretation (or by performing other action like Harry Potter extending his right arm between the two utterances in example mentioned above). The sender or fellow addressees or even by standers will sometimes offer confirmation, corrections or elaborations, along the lines of "Yes, that's part of what I meant, but I'm also trying to tell you ..." or "You've misunderstood me" or "The real point of what she said was ...".

Idiomatic Meaning

Idiomatic meaning is a meaning that is fixed and cannot be translated by its individual word. Idioms are quite difficult to understand because some of them are ambiguous meaning. It suits with the statement of McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:6), that Idioms are fixed combinations of words whose meaning is often difficult to guess from the meaning each individual word. Look at the conversation George and Sam bellow:

George w: I was playing football with sarong and a got tripped.

Sam: I have asked you *time after time* not to do that.

McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:24)

Based on the conversation mentioned above, *time after time* is an idiom. The meaning is *again and again* or *repeatedly*.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the novel *Laurent Oliver* the researcher found some classifications of idiom. The first is adjective and adverb, in this type there is no idiom found. The second is noun phrase and there is no idiom found. The third is pairs of adjective, and also writer doesn't find any idioms. The fourth is pairs of noun, writer found out three idioms. The fifth is pairs of adverb, and there is no idiom found. The sixth is idioms with preposition, in this type of idiom writer found 4 idioms. The seventh is phrasal verbs, four idioms found. The eighth is verbal idioms and only one idiom found. The ninth and tenth are Comparisons with *as ... as* and Comparisons with *like*, and there is no idiom found.

Researcher found some types of idiom. The first is binomials, in this type of idiom the writer found five idioms. The second is proverbs but there is no idiom found. The third is euphemisms, the writer found five idioms. The fourth is cliché, in this type of idiom the writer found eight idioms. The fifth is fix statement, the number of idiom found in this type are ten idioms.

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Idioms are fixed, their cannot translate word by word or by individual perspective so To find out the meaning of each idioms, the researcher uses some resources: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/idiom>, <https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>, and <https://www.theidioms.com/>.

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BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS (Tahoma 11pt, Bold, Capitalized)

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